



Borough of Colne.

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE

Year ending December 31st, 1905,

BY THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

W. LYONS LOVETT,

FELL. R. INST. PUB. HEALTH.

R. HYDE & SONS, PRINTERS, "TIMES" OFFICE, COLNE.

COLNE.

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THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1905.

To the Chairman

and Members of the Health Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

I have great pleasure in submitting to you for your consideration my 13th Annual Report of the Health of the Borough.

In calculating the statistics, I have taken the population at 23,000, the same as in the years since the census.

The health of the district during the year has been good, there being no epidemic of any kind to affect the health of the people to any extent.

The death-rate has decreased, and the infantile death-rate is lower than last year, but it is only lower in proportion to the general death-rate.

The birth-rate is lowest this year since 1892.

TABLE A.

From the following table you will be able to compare the birth-rates, death-rates, and the zymotic death-rates for the last four years, 1901--1904.

Year.	Population.	Birth-rate.	Death-rate.	Zymotic Death-rate.	Phthisis Death-rate.	Respiratory Death-rate.	Rate of Deaths under one year to 1000 Births.
1901	23,000	27·3	14·3	1·43	0·91	2·91	170
1902	23,000	26·7	15·9	2·73	1·21	3·34	188
1903	23,000	25·8	13·5	0·86	1·43	2·91	127
1904	23,000	25·7	14·04	1·60	1·30	2·39	163

BIRTHS.

During the year there were 567 births (269 males and 298 females); of these, ten males and ten females were illegitimate.

The birth-rate was 24·65 per 1,000, calculated upon a population of 23,000, compared with last year 25·73.

The rate of deaths under one year of age to 1,000 births equalled 134.

There were eight deaths of children born illegitimate, four males and four females, all under one year of age except two, which were 18 months and 15 months old.

DEATHS.

During the year there were 302 deaths (135 males and 167 females). This is equivalent to an annual death-rate of 13·13 per 1,000, calculated upon a population of 23,000, compared with last year 14·04.

Four residents of Colne died in other districts, viz.:—Two Manchester (Royal Infirmary), males; one Lancaster (County Asylum), female; one Blackpool, female.

Of the 302 deaths registered in the borough, seven were non-residents (three males, four females), that is, the persons were only temporarily residing in Colne, so that if these deaths are deducted and the deaths of the four residents who died in other districts are added on, the corrected death-rate for the borough will be 13 per 1,000.

There were 115 deaths among children under five years of age, viz.:—76 in the first year, 27 in the second year, eight in the third year, two in the fourth year, and two in the fifth year of life.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The deaths under 12 months were distributed in the following ages:—

37 deaths under three months.

15 deaths over three and under six months.

12 deaths over six and under nine months.

12 deaths over nine and under twelve months.

TABLE B.

From the following table you will see the cause of death in each case.

AGES.	Debility.	Premature Birth.	Pneumonia.	Bronchitis.	Enteritis.	Diarrhoea.	Whooping Cough.	Convulsions.	Inquest Cases.	Eczema.	Abscess of Neck.	Gastritis.	Hæmorrhage of Stomach & Rec.	Obstruction of Bowels.	TOTALS.
Under three months.....	18	7	1	3	2	1	...	2	1	...	...	1	1	...	37
Three months and under six months	...	...	2	2	4	...	1	2	2	...	...	1	...	1	15
Six months and under nine months	...	...	4	1	2	...	1	2	...	1	1	...	...	...	12
Nine months and under twelve months	...	...	5	1	1	1	1	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	12
Totals	18	7	12	7	9	2	3	8	4	1	1	2	1	1	76

The Infantile death-rate is lower this year, viz., 134 per 1,000 births, but I cannot say that this reduction has been caused through any measures adopted, or by any interference on the part of any person ; but due to the mild weather and that the infants benefited in the reduction of the general death-rate for the district.

Going through Table B, you will notice 18 deaths from debility, 9 enteritis, 8 convulsions, 19 bronchitis and pneumonia, which gives 54 deaths. I consider that with reasonable care a greater proportion of these deaths might have been prevented.

During the last few years, a great deal has been written upon Infantile Mortality, and the consensus of opinion seems to be that it is due to :—

1. Early marriages.
2. To mothers working too long at the factory before confinement.
3. Return to factory work before sufficient time has elapsed after confinement.
4. Mothers taking the infants from warm beds out into the cold, and into another house, while she goes to her work at the factory.
5. Inability in some mothers to nurse their own children.
6. Ignorance of parents as to feeding.
7. To the class and quality of food obtained for the child.
8. To impure food supplied as pure food (milk).
- 9 To quackery, viz. :—When a child has a slight ailment, to resort to quackery, and persisting in it, when the child should have skilled advice.

Last year, to combat with the infantile death-rate in the borough, I submitted several suggestions to the Committee, and would ask them to kindly reconsider their decision as regards a trained intelligent nurse (not the so-called Lady Sanitary Inspector), to visit the homes of the poor, and instruct the mother how to prepare the food, feed the child, and clothe it; also to teach her the general management of an infant.

INFANTILE DEATHS from 1892 to 1904.

Year.	Deaths under one year.				Infantile rate.	
1892	100	..	..	166
1893	95	..	..	157
1894	84	..	..	147
1895	114	..	..	178
1896	108	..	..	160
1897	121	..	..	166
1898	113	..	..	157
1899	125	..	..	187
1900	118	..	..	179
1901	107	..	..	176
1902	116	..	..	188
1903	76	..	..	127
1904	97	..	..	163

TABLE C.

Table showing the Cause of Death, and number each month, of
Children under 5 years of age in **Primet Bridge Ward.**

DISEASES.	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Totals
Diarrhoea				1						1			2
Enteritis			2				1	1	1				5
Bronchitis			2									1	3
Pneumonia					1								1
Debility			2			1	1						4
Premature Birth..		1		2								1	4
Inquest Cases	1										1		2
Other Causes	1				1		1						3
Totals.....	2	1	6	3	2	1	3	1	1	1	1	2	24

TABLE D.

Table showing the Cause of Death, and number each month, of
Children under 5 years of age in **Vivary Bridge Ward.**

DISEASES.	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Totals
Whooping Cough.				1									1
Diarrhoea										1			1
Enteritis								2					2
Bronchitis										1		1	2
Pneumonia				1							1		2
Debility					1	1						2	4
Inquest Case												1	1
Other Causes						2		1					3
Totals.....				2	1	3		3		2	1	4	16

TABLE E.

Table showing the Cause of Death, and number each month, of
Children under 5 years of age, in **Central Ward.**

DISEASES.	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Totals
Whooping Cough.	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Enteritis .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	2	.....	.....	.....	5
Bronchitis .....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	3
Pneumonia	1	.....	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	.....	5
Debility	1	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Other Causes .....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1	1	.....	4
Totals.....	3	1	3	.....	2	.....	1	4	2	2	2	1	21

TABLE F.

Table showing the Cause of Death, and number each month, of
Children under 5 years of age, in **Horsfield Ward.**

DISEASES.	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Totals
Whooping Cough.	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Enteritis .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....	.....	2
Bronchitis.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Pneumonia.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	.....	3
Debility	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Other Causes .....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1	1	.....	4
Totals.....	3	2	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	2	1	2	2	.....	13

TABLE G.

Table showing the Cause of Death, and number each month, of Children under 5 years of age, in **Carry Bridge Ward.**

DISEASES.	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Totals
Measles				I									I
Whooping Cough.		I	I										2
Membran's Croup.									I				I
Enteritis					I	I	I	I	I				5
Bronchitis					I			I		I			3
Pneumonia	I	2		I		I	I		I			2	9
Debility		I										4	5
Premature Birth..			I				I						2
Inquest Cases								I					I
Other Causes	I		I	I			2					I	6
Totals.....	2	4	3	3	2	2	5	3	3	I	....	7	35

TABLE H.

Table showing the Cause of Death, and number each month, of Children under 5 years of age, in **Laneshawbridge Ward.**

DISEASES.	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Totals
Bronchitis									I				I
Debility											I		I
Premature Birth..								I					I
Inquest Cases		I						I					2
Other Causes					I								I
Totals.....	I	....	....	I	....	....	2	I	....	I	....	6

There were 187 deaths among people over five years of age, the oldest being 88 years of age.

The ages at death were as follows :—

9 deaths among persons over 5 years and under 10 years									
8	„	„	„	„	10	„	„	„	15
6	„	„	„	„	15	„	„	„	20
17	„	„	„	„	20	„	„	„	30
21	„	„	„	„	30	„	„	„	40
21	„	„	„	„	40	„	„	„	50
15	„	„	„	„	50	„	„	„	55
16	„	„	„	„	55	„	„	„	60
23	„	„	„	„	60	„	„	„	65
14	„	„	„	„	65	„	„	„	70
15	„	„	„	„	70	„	„	„	75
18	„	„	„	„	75	„	„	„	80
2	„	„	„	„	80	„	„	„	85
2	„	„	„	„	85	„	„	„	90

TABLE I.

Table showing the Cause of Death in all ages, and number registered each month, in **Primet Bridge Ward.**

DISEASES.	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Totals
Scarlet Fever	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Diarrhœa	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	2
Enteritis	2	.....	.....	.....	1	1	1	.....	.....	.....	5
Puerperal Fever..	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Erysipelas	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Phthisis	2	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Cancer	1	2	.....	2	1	6
Bronchitis	4	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	2	10
Pneumonia	1	.....	2	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	5
Debility	2	.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Premature Birth..	1	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	4
Heart Disease....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Senile Decay	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Inquest Cases	2	.....	.....	.....	1	2	.....	.....	1	.....	1	.....	7
Other Causes	2	.....	1	1	4	1	1	2	.....	1	3	.....	16
Totals.....	4	1	10	8	10	4	6	4	4	5	7	4	67

TABLE J.

Table showing the Cause of Death in all ages, and number registered each month, in **Vivary Bridge Ward.**

DISEASES.	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Totals
Whooping Cough.	.....	.....	.....	I	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	I
Influenza .....	.....	.....	.....	I	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	I
Diarrhœa.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	I	.....	.....	I
Enteritis.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Phthisis.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	I	.....	.....	I	.....	2	4
Tubercul'r Disease	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	I	.....	.....	I
Cancer .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	I	.....	.....	I	.....	I	.....	3
Bronchitis	I	.....	.....	.....	I	.....	.....	.....	.....	I	.....	I	4
Pneumonia	I	.....	.....	2	.....	I	.....	I	.....	I	I	I	8
Pleurisy	I	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	I
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	I	.....	.....	.....	I
Alcoholism .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	I	.....	I
Debility.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	I	I	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	4
Heart Disease....	2	I	I	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	I	I	I	9
Inquest Cases .....	.....	.....	.....	I	.....	.....	.....	I	I	.....	I	I	5
Other Causes .....	.....	.....	I	I	I	2	.....	I	2	.....	3	I	12
Totals.....	5	I	2	8	3	5	I	5	5	6	8	9	58

TABLE K.

Table showing the Cause of Death in all ages, and number registered each month, in **Central Ward.**

DISEASES.	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Totals
Measles .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	I	.....	I
Whooping Cough.	I	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	I
Enteritis .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	2	.....	.....	.....	5
Tubercul'r Disease	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	I	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	I
Cancer .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	I	.....	I	.....	.....	.....	2
Bronchitis	I	I	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	I	I	6
Pneumonia	I	I	I	.....	I	.....	.....	.....	.....	I	I	.....	6
Pleurisy .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	I	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	I
Debility	I	.....	.....	.....	I	.....	I	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Diseases and Acci- dents of Parturi- tion	I	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	I
Heart Disease....	I	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	I	4
Inquest Cases .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	I	.....	I	.....	.....	.....	2
Other Causes	2	3	.....	2	2	.....	.....	2	.....	2	I	4	18
Totals	8	5	3	2	4	.....	5	5	4	5	4	6	51

TABLE L.

Table showing the Cause of Death in all ages, and number registered each month, in **Horsfield Ward.**

DISEASES.	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Totals
Whooping Cough.	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Enteritis .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....	.....	2
Phthisis.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Cancer .....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Bronchitis	1	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	1	4
Pneumonia .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	.....	3
Alcoholism .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Debility.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Heart Disease .....	.....	1	1	.....	.....	2	1	.....	.....	.....	1	2	8
Inquest Cases .....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Other Causes	1	3	.....	.....	1	1	.....	1	.....	2	2	3	14
Totals.....	4	6	3	3	2	3	3	2	2	3	4	6	41

TABLE M.

Table showing the Cause of Death in all ages, and number registered each month, in **Carry Bridge Ward.**

DISEASES.	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Totals
Measles				I									I
Whooping Cough.		I	I										2
Membran's Croup.									I				I
Enteric Fever							I						I
Enteritis					I	I	I	I	I				5
Phthisis	3					I							4
Cancer									I				I
Bronchitis	3		I		I	I		I		I			8
Pneumonia	2	2		I	2	I	I		I		I	2	13
Debility		I										4	5
Premature Birth..			I				I						2
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition											I		I
Heart Disease		I	I					I		I		2	6
Inquest Cases					2		I	I	I				5
Other Causes	2		I	I	I		2		I			I	9
Totals.....	10	5	5	3	7	4	7	4	6	2	2	9	64

TABLE N.

Table showing the Cause of Death in all ages, and number registered each month, in **Laneshawbridge Ward.**

DISEASES.	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Totals
Smallpox					1								1
Phthisis.....			1				1						2
Bronchitis		1	1					1	1				4
Pneumonia						2							2
Debility.....											1		1
Premature Birth..								1					1
Heart Disease	1		1				1					1	4
Senile Decay										1			1
Inquest Cases		2						1					3
Other Causes			1		1								2
Totals.....	1	3	4	.....	2	2	2	3	1	1	1	1	21

The deaths from phthisis (consumption) numbered 15, with a rate of '65. Last year 30, with a rate of 1'30.

The deaths were distributed through the Wards as follows:—

Primet Bridge Ward	..	..	3
Vivary Bridge Ward	..	..	4
Central Ward	..	..	—
Horsfield Ward	..	..	2
Carry Bridge Ward	..	..	4
Laneshawbridge Ward	..	..	2

The deaths from respiratory diseases, bronchitis, pneumonia, and pleurisy, were 75, which gives a rate of 3·26 per 1,000. Last year 55, with a rate of 2·39.

The deaths were distributed in the following manner :—

Primet Bridge Ward	..	..	15
Vivary Bridge Ward	..	..	13
Central Ward	..	..	13
Horsfield Ward	..	..	7
Carry Bridge Ward	..	..	21
Laneshawbridge Ward	..	..	6

The number of deaths occurring during the working age, viz., between 12 and 65 years of age, was 122 (males 54, females 68), which, if calculated upon the total population of the district, equalled a rate of 5·30 per 1,000.

COTTAGE HOSPITAL.

During the year 141 patients were admitted to this Institution. Ten deaths occurred, which equals a rate of 70·92 per 1,000.

The cause of death in the cases was 2 bronchitis, 2 pneumonia, 2 inquest cases, 1 shock, 1 intestinal obstruction, 1 metritis, 1 menopause.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

I am pleased to report, that although there is an increase in Infectious Diseases reported, it is a very slight one, only 9.

In diphtheria and membranous croup there were only 2 cases, scarlet fever 36, the same number as last year; but I regret there has been an increase in typhoid fever, 13 cases reported, last year 9.

Under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 80 cases were notified, giving a rate of 3·47 per 1,000 of the population. Last year 71 cases were notified, which equalled a rate of 3·08 per 1,000.

The diseases notified were 36 scarlet fever, 13 typhoid fever, 26 erysipelas, 1 smallpox, 1 membranous croup, 1 diphtheria, 2 puerperal fever.

There were 37 deaths from the principal zymotic diseases, which give a rate of 1·60 per 1,000. Of the notified diseases, six deaths occurred; this equalled a rate of ·26 per 1,000.

The deaths from the reported cases were 1 smallpox, 1 puerperal fever (1 puerperal fever is included in inquest cases), 1 typhoid fever, 1 scarlet fever, 1 erysipelas, 1 membranous croup. The deaths from the Infectious Diseases which are not included in the list of those notified are 22 diarrhœa and enteritis, 6 whooping cough, 2 measles, and 1 influenza.

Smallpox.—Although there were cases in many districts near Colne, and considering the amount of traffic through the town and the great number of common lodging-houses, I am pleased to report we had only one case of smallpox, which was removed to our hospital at Jerusalem.

The patient died during the first week.

This has been only the second death from smallpox in the district since 1894, and then one before, in 1888.

Although we have had several epidemics during the last 18 years, there have been only three deaths.

Puerperal Fever.—There were only two cases reported, and both cases died.

In enquiring into this outbreak, I found that an unregistered midwife had attended the first case at confinement. The patient died.

A notice was served upon the woman who acted as nurse, not to attend any other case for a period of six weeks, and then only after being properly disinfected. She disobeyed the order, with the result that the very first case she attended died—which death required a Coroner's inquest. The woman received a severe censure from the Coroner.

Erysipelas.—Twenty-six cases reported, with one death. This is an increase on last year, viz., 15 cases, with one death.

Diphtheria.—Only one case reported, which recovered. There were four cases last year and no deaths.

Membranous Croup.—One case notified, which resulted in death. Last year, seven cases and two deaths.

Scarlet Fever.—This disease is one which chiefly affects children attending school; but I am glad to say that we only had 36 cases reported, with one death. Last year 36, with no deaths.

Typhoid Fever.—I regret to state there has been a number of Typhoid Fever cases reported, 13, the greatest number since 1900. Five of the cases were traced to a defective cesspool in a yard. The remaining cases received the infection from different sources.

Of the 13 cases notified there was one death. Last year nine cases, with one death.

During the year ten cases of suspected typhoid fever were tested with Widal's test. Seven gave a positive reaction and three negative.

From the following table you will see the cases notified, including cases notified which were bacteriologically examined, and their results.

No.	Sex	Age	Date Notified	How long suffering from Disease.	Remarks	If Tested	Result
1	M	28	July 26	Died in six days	Blacksmith	No	.....
2	F	4	" 31	Three weeks	Child	Yes	Positive
3	M	44	" 31	Five and a half weeks	Warpdresser	Yes	Positive
4	M	33	Aug. 8	Three weeks	Weaver	No	.....
5	M	40	" 10	Six weeks	Tackler	Yes	Positive
6	F	34	" 12	Five and a half weeks	Housewife	No	.....
7	M	11	" 22	Three weeks	Schoolboy	Yes	Positive
8	M	19	" 31	Four weeks	Cardroom-hand	No	.....
9	F	17	Sept. 11	Six weeks	Weaver	No	.....
10	F	35	Oct. 25	Four and a half weeks	Confectioner	Yes	Positive
11	M	45	Nov. 6	Five weeks	Insurance Supt.	Yes	Positive
12	M	14	" 22	Taken to Burnley Sanatorium	Schoolboy	No	.....
13	M	31	" 25	Taken to Burnley Sanatorium	Railway Stoker	Yes	Positive

TABLE OF TYPHOID FEVER CASES, 1892 to 1904.

Year.	Number Reported.		Deaths.	
1892	..	12	..	1
1893	..	35	..	9
1894	..	21	..	4
1895	..	21	..	6
1896	..	16	..	4
1897	..	19	..	4
1898	..	27	..	9
1899	..	23	..	5
1900	..	20	..	5
1901	..	10	..	4
1902	..	11	..	1
1903	..	5	..	1
1904	..	8	..	1

In 1901 the system of having suspicious cases of Typhoid Fever tested with Widal's test was commenced.

TABLE P.

VACCINATION.—A table showing the number of successful vaccinations, also exemptions granted, with the number of children born and the number that died under one year of age for the years 1897 to 1905, inclusive.

Year	Public Vaccinations, Primary	Public Re- Vaccinations	Private Vaccinations, Primary	Conscientious Objections	Number of Births Registered	Number of Children died under 1 year
1897	7	..	11	..	725	121
1898	10	..	74	1404	716	113
1899	370	..	52	118	668	125
1900	346	..	125	139	657	118
1901	220	..	138	175	628	107
1902	538	606	245	154	616	116
1903	381	377	70	154	595	76
1904	245	..	121	151	592	97
1905	251	..	129	158	567	76

THE WATER SUPPLY.

There has been an ample supply of drinking water, but I regret to again report that I have received a great number of complaints all through the year, as regards the colour and taste of the water, also of a deposit of flocculent matter, when the water is allowed to stand.

This has been chiefly due to peaty substances from the gathering ground being carried into the pipes.

The rainbow trout that were placed in the reservoir have thriven well.

SUMMARY OF RAINFALL READINGS for 1901 to 1905.

Negretti and Zambra's Self-Recording Rain Gauge. Cemetery Grounds.

MONTH	1901			1902			1903			1904			1905		
	Depth in inches	No. of days on which rain fell	No. of days on which rain fell	Depth in inches	No. of days on which rain fell	No. of days on which rain fell	Depth in inches	No. of days on which rain fell	No. of days on which rain fell	Depth in inches	No. of days on which rain fell	No. of days on which rain fell	Depth in inches	No. of days on which rain fell	No. of days on which rain fell
January	2.59	13	18	3.14	12	19	3.40	12	19	3.20	12	19	1.55	15	16
February . . .	0.89	14	14	1.20	15	13	4.16	6	22	4.37	4	25	2.40	9	19
March	2.81	17	14	2.25	10	21	5.61	5	26	2.38	13	18	2.81	8	23
April	2.46	12	18	1.95	15	15	2.75	17	13	3.24	9	21	2.72	9	21
May	0.99	23	8	2.40	12	19	3.08	9	22	3.27	10	21	0.59	25	6
June	1.07	16	14	1.26	14	16	2.69	18	12	1.76	15	15	2.38	22	8
July	0.98	27	5	2.84	18	13	3.40	15	16	1.82	13	18	1.83	14	17
August	1.74	19	12	2.42	15	16	4.93	7	24	4.10	14	17	3.82	12	19
September . .	0.67	19	11	1.34	13	17	5.12	11	19	0.97	17	13	2.42	9	21
October	2.43	15	16	3.68	5	26	8.53	1	30	1.89	18	13	3.41	17	14
November . . .	5.32	19	11	2.02	12	18	2.85	10	20	4.06	12	18	4.25	7	23
December . . .	4.34	11	20	3.46	11	20	1.95	14	17	2.93	10	21	1.71	21	10
Totals	26.29	204	161	27.96	152	213	48.47	125	240	33.99	147	219	29.89	168	197
Monthly average, 2.19 inches.															
Heaviest rainfall in one day, 12th Nov., 2.16 in.															
Heaviest rainfall in one hour, 30th May, 0.29 in.															
Monthly average, 2.83 in.															
Heaviest rainfall in one day, 9th Nov., 1.26 in.															
Heaviest rainfall in one hour, 24th July, 0.53 in.															
Monthly average, 4.04 in.															
Heaviest rainfall in one day, 10th Sept., 1.67 in.															
Heaviest rainfall in one hour, 5th June, 0.35 in.															

The height of Rain Gauge above sea level is 618.74 feet.

The height of Rain Gauge above ground level is 3 feet.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The Factories and Workshops have been kept under observation during the year.

In almost all the firms the sanitary arrangements are satisfactory.

Lighting, heating, and ventilation are good.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

Superintendent Brassington reports that during the year ending December 31st, 1905, the following samples have been purchased under the Food and Drugs Act, in the Borough of Colne, and submitted to the Public County Analyst, to be analysed, who reports that all are genuine or passable, viz :—

Butter	..	..	..	5
Coffee	..	..	..	1
Lard	..	..	..	5
Compound Liquorice Powder				2
White Pepper	..	..		2
New Milk	..	..	..	27
Gin	..	..	..	2
Scotch Whiskey	..	..		2
Irish Whiskey	..	..		2
Rum	..	..	..	1
				—
Total				49

REPORT OF INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.

(H. C. SUGDEN.)

The following notices have been served during the year:—

TABLE I.

Preliminary Notices	184
Final Notices	95
Nuisances still unabated at the end of the year ..	43

TABLE II.

Defective w.c.'s and waste water closets	20
Defective slopstone pipes and drains	113
Defective ashpits	32
Defective privies	24
Privies converted into w.w.c.'s	63
Smoke Nuisances	46
Damp and filthy premises	4
Accumulation of manure	4
Defective or without manure pits	8
Keeping animals so as to be a nuisance	11
Nuisance from fish, garbage, etc., refuse	7
Defective and insufficient sanitary conveniences ..	11
Defective or insufficient water supply	3
Workshops, Lodginghouses, Slaughterhouses, etc., not whitewashed	60
Filthy areas	16
Defective ventilation	2
Filthy Lodginghouses	2
Defective eaves and fall pipes	8
Insufficient lighting to shippon	1
Unregistered Cowshed	1
Unaffixed notices, slaughterhouses	5
Overcrowding	1
Storing garbage and insufficient pails for same, slaughterhouses	10
Miscellaneous	11
	<hr/>
	463

Nuisances abated by our own staff during the year were 241 blocked closets, 84 blocked drains, and 27 tippers which were out of order were put into a proper sanitary condition.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES. — The number of slaughterhouses within the Borough remains the same as last year, viz :—7 registered slaughterhouses, 4 licensed slaughterhouses, and 7 public abattoirs.

These premises have been kept under strict observation throughout the year for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of your regulations (which will, I hope, be shortly substituted with regulations of a more recent date), and for the inspection and examination of animals dressed and slaughtered therein.

The system of removing the garbage and refuse in tins with tight and close-fitting lids, which has been in vogue lately, is still not carried out according to the byelaws, and notices have been served upon the occupiers, and I trust the matter will be shortly dealt with by the Committee.

I have again to report that no permanent tenants have been secured for the public abattoirs, although every endeavour has been made to meet them. With respect to the private slaughterhouses there have been served the following notices:—9 not whitewashed slaughterhouses, 5 unaffixed notices on doors, 2 accumulation of garbage, 8 insufficient refuse pails and garbage not removed according to the byelaws, 3 defective drainage. During the year there have been seized and destroyed 2 carcasses of cows and the internal organs of 6 cows.

COMMON LODGINGHOUSES.—There are 7 common lodging-houses within the Borough, and these have been regularly inspected, and I have again to report that no case of infectious disease has broken out in these houses. Three notices were served during the year as follows:—One dirty floor, one not whitewashed, and one woodwork in a dirty condition. There has been one change of tenancy.

HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS. — There is a considerable number of this class of property within the Borough, and it has recently been brought to my notice that a great number have been created lately without the same having been sanctioned by the Committee. These cases will shortly be brought before you.

BAKEHOUSES.—The bakehouses have been regularly visited and there has been no cause for complaint.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT.—There have been a few contraventions of this Act, for which notices have been served as follows :—

FACTORIES.—One defective drainage, three insufficient sanitary accommodation, two closets without parti-

tions, one dirty sanitary convenience, one closet door without fastenings, one flushing closets with hot water.

WORKSHOPS.—One defective ceiling, one not white-washed, one filthy and dilapidated water closet, one closet unsuitable, one closet only for both sexes and that not suitable.

PETROLEUM ACTS. — During the year 27 licenses (as against 28 last year) have been granted for the keeping of 8,600 gallons of petroleum (as against 7,685 last year) and that in each case the licensee had complied with the provisions of the Acts.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES (ANIMALS) ACT 1894.—I am pleased to report that during the year there have been no cases of Swine Fever, Sheep Scab, etc.

The Sheep Scab Order of 1898 has been substituted with the Sheep Scab Order of 1905. The former Order was locally known as the dipping order compelling owners of sheep to dip their sheep twice within fourteen days in the months of September, October, and November. The 1905 Order has repealed this, and substituted further regulations which now only affect owners who have sheep scab amongst their sheep.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS ORDERS.—Numerous inspections of these places have been made during the year, and new regulations are in process of construction, which will greatly assist us in compelling the occupier to keep his premises in a more sanitary condition. There have been 62 notices served by this department, and many letters sent from the Town Clerk's Office dealing with breaches of the Order.

REFUSE DESTRUCTOR.—This undertaking continues to work most satisfactorily, and there have been no complaints from the residents in this neighbourhood, and occasionally deputations from other authorities visit it. There are a few difficulties to which I am pleased to say the Committee are giving their attention viz ;—the best mode of disposing of the waste materials belonging to this class of municipal enterprise, and your committee are fully alive as to the necessity of being sure that any additional plant erected for disposal of these waste materials shall be such as to ensure that the undertaking will be a success. Many authorities are at present experimentally endeavouring to obtain a revenue from these waste materials, one authority is at present treating all slaughterhouse and fish offal for agricultural manure, others the recovery of solder from tin cans, etc., the making of bricks, tiles, and concrete flags, etc. At present your Committee are taking note of the progress made in these various experiments.

The clinkers are still being used by the Sewage Department.

The quantity of refuse dealt with is as follows :—

	1904.		1905.
Loads of Refuse ..	3,824	..	3,756
Loads of Garbage ..	332	..	355
	<u>4,156</u>		<u>4,111</u>
	Tons Cwts. Qrs.		Tons Cwts. Qrs.
Weight of Refuse ..	3,936 14 2	..	4,061 0 3
Weight of Garbage..	290 9 0	..	320 18 3
	<u>4,227 3 2</u>		<u>4,381 19 2</u>

NUISANCE REMOVAL.—We are still having great difficulty in disposing of this class of refuse.

Loads of excreta removed during the year :—

1904.	1905.
1,273	1,367

SMOKE NUISANCE.—There have been 138 observations taken of the emission of smoke from factory chimneys, which has resulted in the serving of 46 notices upon those responsible for creating this nuisance. During December last a Smoke Abatement Conference and Exhibition was held in London with the object of discussing the various ways in preventing the smoke from factories and to reduce the volume of smoke from dwellings, and for furthering the use of Gas, Electricity, and Smokeless Fuel, and encouraging improved forms of Stove and Grate Construction. Unfortunately the Borough was not represented at this Conference and the results are not yet published.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—I am sorry to have to report that we were again visited with smallpox this year. Happily we had only one case, namely, a factory hand who contracted the disease at his work. Unfortunately the disease was of a very virulent character, and he succumbed within a week of his admittance to the Hospital. We were also unfortunate in having an increase in typhoid fever, of which the Medical Officer of Health will no doubt give full particulars, also puerperal fever, one case ending in an inquest, and the midwife was very fortunate in being let off with a reprimand.

SMALLPOX HOSPITAL.—The hospital is still kept in thorough working order, and is ready at any moment for the reception of patients. It has been necessary, on account of smallpox being in the north during the latter months of the year, to use the utmost vigilance, and be ready for any emergency.

PROSECUTIONS.—It has only been necessary once to go before the magistrates, the case ending with an order compelling the defendant to abate a nuisance.

**Report of Work carried out under the Borough
Surveyor, as supplied to the Medical Officer
of Health, year ending 31st Dec., 1905.**

BUILDINGS AND PLANS.—During the last year the building trade has remained in a somewhat depressed condition, although a slight improvement is now taking place. Sixty-four plans of various buildings have been submitted to the Corporation for approval, 62 of which were approved and two disapproved. The plans represented the following buildings :—46 dwelling-houses, 2 warehouses, 5 workshops, 3 new schools, 1 assembly room, 4 wooden buildings, 2 stables, 9 mill extensions, 1 timber shed, 1 engine house, 1 store room, 1 gymnasium, and 25 alterations and additions. Twenty-six houses have been completed during the year, for which certificates of habitation have been granted. Two hundred and fourteen notices have been given in by the various builders for inspection of buildings and alterations during the year, for which 520 inspections were made.

MAIN SEWERAGE.—Very few extensions have been made in the town, therefore not many new sewers have been required. The following have been laid :—96 linl. yards of 9in. sewers, with 1 manhole and 2 junction lampholes. The total length of main sewers in the Borough is now $27\frac{1}{2}$ miles, with 568 manholes and 365 lampholes. The total length of surface water drains is $6\frac{3}{4}$ miles, with 126 manholes and 40 lampholes. All these receive regular attention and inspection in the way of cleansing, flushing and maintenance.

PRIVATE STREET WORKS. — Very little work in this branch has been carried out during the year. The sanction of the Local Government Board was received to a loan of £9,436 for private street improvement Works since the last report, and a commencement was made in November of two batches of streets included in the above loan, which are estimated to cost about £4,800. The streets are in the Alkincoates Road and Knotts Lane districts. These are now in hand and will be shortly completed. The length of front streets paved up to date

is $12\frac{1}{2}$ miles ; back streets $4\frac{7}{8}$ miles. Total $17\frac{3}{8}$ miles. Number of front streets sewered and paved up to date 151 ; back streets 90. Total 241.

FIRE STATION AND STABLES. — During the year, the scheme has been commenced and completed on the site occupied by the old station. The additional land required has been obtained by purchasing the adjoining house ; and after many delays from various causes the Fire Brigade are now housed in very commodious premises. The actual cost has not yet been ascertained, but it is not expected to exceed the estimate, which was about £2,400, including purchase of property.

SEWAGE WORKS EXTENSIONS.—The construction of the bacteria beds is still being proceeded with as material for filtering medium can be obtained.

KNOTTS LANE AND BRIDGE STREET IMPROVEMENT SCHEME.—This important scheme has been commenced, sanction to the loan of £6,000 for the work having been given by the Local Government Board during the year, and is now in full swing. The bridge is already built ; the arch is constructed in Ferro-Concrete, the abutments and parapets in masonry. The span of the bridge is 45 feet 6 inches and the width 36 feet. The filling up and road formation on top is now being proceeded with, as is also the improvement of the various gradients, and very shortly vehicular traffic will be able to use the new road. Details of this scheme have already been furnished.

CATTLE AUCTION MART.—The Arcade, in Swan Croft, has been, during the year, converted into a cattle auction mart, at a cost of about £550, and is used by the Tenant Farmers' Association for their sales of cattle, and is also open for any other sales of a similar character. Provision is made for 58 head of cattle in the shippon adjoining, and also for sale ring and offices, &c., under the central portion of the building.

CULVERTING.—A portion of the stream in the North Valley Road of the town at the foot of Derby Street and Newmarket Street has been culverted in order to provide an approach from these streets to the North Valley Road, the Earl of Derby having agreed to defray the cost of the work. Up to the present time all the people residing at the foot of Newmarket Street, Mason Street, and Bright Street have had to go round by Hartley Street and Stanley Street to reach the North Valley Road. These new approaches will therefore be a great convenience.

In conclusion, I wish to tender my thanks to the various Committees for the kind assistance they have given me, and for the consideration with which they have received my suggestions.

I also wish to thank the heads of departments of the Corporation for so willingly supplying me with the required statistics.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. LYONS LOVETT,

Medical Officer of Health.
Fell. R. Inst. Pub. Health.

5th March, 1906.